

Name _____ Date _____

Imagining the Future

These words were spoken about 30 years ago. The man who said them was the president of a big company that made computers. How could he have been so wrong about the future?

He didn't know that computers would become smaller, faster, cheaper, easier, and much more fun to use. He didn't know that kids would play games, chat, and message with friends on the Web.

It's hard to guess what the future will bring. And it's *very* hard to guess what inventions the future will bring.

**There is no reason
anyone would want a
computer
in their home.**



The future did not turn out the way this man expected. What might he have said?

Name _____ Date _____

How good are *you* at predicting the future? Read about each invention.
Then write about how it may affect kids and schools.

E-books Online

Today you carry a backpack of heavy textbooks. In the future, E-books will be delivered on the Internet. How might E-books change the way kids learn? How might it change schools?



Wireless Internet

Today you can get connected to the Internet without wires. The connection is through the air like that of a cell phone. But wireless Internet is expensive. In the future, all computers may use wireless connections. You might be connected to the Internet wherever you go. How might this change the way kids learn? How might it change schools?

Computers You Wear

Computing devices are getting smaller and lighter. In the future, they may be part of your clothing. How might computers you wear change the way kids learn? How might it change schools?

Speech Recognition

Today, there are computers that understand spoken words. Instead of typing commands, you say what you want the computer to do. However, these programs are very expensive. Also, they make a lot of mistakes. In the future, computers may not need keyboards. They will all recognize speech well. How might this change the way kids learn? How might it change schools?


